

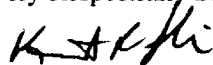
March 6, 2001

To: Board of Supervisors
Yorktown Virginia

As a 7-year resident of York County, a hard-working citizen, member of the armed forces, and parent to three young children I must ask what is the intent behind the burdensome penalty element of the York County sewage project? Certainly, I have no argument with the project itself, as it can be defended from both technical and "quality of life" perspectives quite readily. I certainly have no trouble supporting the fact that county residents, the true beneficiaries of this infra-structure upgrade should shoulder a reasonable portion of the costs in accessing the new service. The one element of the entire program that I cannot fathom is the "penalty" component. I really cannot quite understand how a missed, misplaced, or misunderstood single mailed notice should result in a what amounts to a \$6,125 fine. (A figure that is almost 250% of the original connection fee)

Given the extent of this burden and the automatic threat of lien to my home, I must wonder why the county would see fit to "criminalize" a simple misunderstanding; criminalize to an extent that is all out of proportion with the admitted mistake on the part of the citizen. I would say that this \$6,125 penalty would probably be comparable (or perhaps even larger) than those imposed in true criminal cases, those of theft or assault, and again I ask what is the intent of this sort of attack on the citizenry? What is the intent if, by mutual understanding, connection to the new service is mandatory? Forcing compliance is, of course, not the issue, as via lien or other legal means all affected homes would ultimately connect. If the penalty is a tool to enrich the county or factions within county Government at the expense of time-pressed, multiple-job, Struggling-to-make-ends-meet, children-to-feed-and-educate citizens, then obviously the world is out of balance. I ask you to consider this plea; that my misunderstanding in this matter should not force a devastating impact on my children. Like most families, we are struggling with not only our daily expenses but also with the thought of our future educational costs, and it would simply be unfair for a matter such as "late compliance" to have a material impact on the future of this hardworking family.

Very Respectfully Submitted,



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